

Application No. 10/840,228
Amendment dated October 3, 2005
Reply to Office Action of July 1, 2005

Docket No.: 2450-0695PUS1

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-7 and 9 are now present in this application.

The specification and claims 1, 6 and 9 have been amended, and claims 5 and 8 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 6, 7 and 9 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Vaughn, U.S. Patent 6,016,052. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that the Examiner considers claims 5-8 to contain allowable subject matter. Because claim 9 depended from claim 8, this claim 9 should have also been indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Without conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejections, but simply to expedite prosecution of this application, the limitations from claim 5 have been incorporated into independent claim 1, and the limitations from claim 8 have been incorporated into independent claim 6. Thus, the independent claims, as well as all dependent claims in the instant application, should now be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC 102(b) rejection are respectfully requested.

Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Because the additional prior art cited by the Examiner has been included merely to show the state of the prior art and has not been utilized to reject the claims, no further comments concerning these documents are considered necessary at this time.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

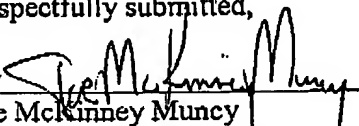
Application No. 10/840,228
Amendment dated October 3, 2005
Reply to Office Action of July 1, 2005

Docket No.: 2450-0695PUS1

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: October 3, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Joe McKinney Muncy

Registration No.: 32,334

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Rd

Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attorney for Applicant